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LETTER

TO THE

Hon. George Townshend, Esq;

[Price SIX-PENCE.]

LETTER

To the HONOURABLE

George Townshend, Esq;

KNIGHT of the Shire for the County of Norfolk during the last Parliament,

In ANSWER to

"The NORFOLK FARMER's SENTI-

- " MENTS on a BILL to be brought into
- " Parliament for doubling the Qualification
- " of Sportsmen. With a Hint upon Co M-
- " PROMISES, &c.

By RICHARD GARDINER, Esq;

Quot capitum vivunt, totidem studiorum Millia. Hor.



LONDON:

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LETTER

TO THE

Hon. George Townshend, Esq;

Very ingenious Performance hav-ing lately made its Appearance, wrote with great Fire, and greater Impartiality, and entitled, The Norfolk Farmer's Sentiments, &c. I take the Liberty to recommend it to your Perufal; and this I am the more inclined to do, as I know you are a Friend to the Farmers, and, without Flattery, will venture to fay, as much beloved by them as any Gentleman in the County, one who would oppose, to the utmost, any Infringement upon their particular Rights and Privileges, and with the fame noble Warmth you have ever shewn B

shewn in the Defence of the Liberties

of your Country in general.

To give you my Sentiments fully upon this Pamphlet, would take up too much of that Time you so much better employ to the Advantage of all who know you, and this, I believe, will include the whole County of Norfolk;

In Publica commoda peccem Si longo sermone morer tua tempora;

besides that, it would be a great Degree of Impertinence to offer my Observations at large to you, who are so much a better Judge of writing than I am. I shall only therefore make a few Remarks upon this Author, who, I will take upon me to say, is no Farmer, and writes under a Character his Violence of Imagination, and Hurry of Sentiment, would not permit him to preserve for the Length of eight and twenty Pages together.

To begin with his Preface. "Was "I to fet my Name to the following "Tract,

"Tract, fays he, it might become me to affix an Apology to it," and in this I entirely agree with him; for a Man, who affronts my Understanding, is equally bound to ask my Pardon with one, who infults my Person, and I could sooner forgive the latter than the former. I was pleased to find he set out with Truth, and expected Entertainment accordingly in the Perusal of his Work;

Dimidium facti, qui bene cæpit, habet.

But, alas! I was foon disappointed, for, as I continued to read on, I found Truth and he shook Hands with one another, and took Leave in the very first Page, for there he tells us, "He is totally ignorant of all Languages, faving that of his own Country," to which he adds a modest Remark enough; "Perhaps it will be thought I might have spared this Exception, as it must appear how little I am acquainted with that." I flatter myself

a few Quotations only will convince you of the Truth of the one, and Falshood of the other; and that the Gentleman is altogether ignorant of other Languages, is equally as false, as that he does not thoroughly understand his own, is true, every impartial Person must agree, who takes the following Passages into Confideration.

"Some Years ago, being in Company with a German, our Discourse

" happened to fall on the Topic of

" Sporting, and in the Course of it he

" took Occasion to admire the Excel-

" lency of our Government, &c."

To pass over the Improbability of a Farmer's being qualified to talk upon the Excellency of Government, who professes himself to be altogether illiterate, I would ask, where he found a German, Master of so much English, as to carry on a Conversation of that Kind, whom 'tis likely for a Farmer to have met with? I do believe I have, in my Time, been acquainted with as many Germans as he, both at home and abroad,

I have known many, who were very good Proficients in our Language, very few of them could do more than read it to themselves, and understand what they read; not that I deny there are to be found who both speak and read it well, but they are rarely to be met with; a German, so great a Master of our Language, is a

Rara avis in terris;

But that our Author was not a Stranger to another Language, I mean the Latin, will further appear in Page 17.

" Are not our Commoners the Am-

" bassadors of the People? And are

" they not, or, rather, should they not

" be, bound by the most solemn En-

" gagements, to see that they receive no

" Detriment, &c."

If any Man will fay that this is not a most suspicious Allusion to the videant Consules nè quid detrimenti capiat Respublica,* of the ROMANS, or that 'tis probable the

^{*} Itaque quod plerumque in atroci Negotio folet, Senatus Decrevit, "Darent operam Confules ne quid Respublica "Detrimenti caperet."

Sall.

the Author knew nothing of such an Order of Senate amongst them, given their Consuls, in Times of Danger only, and investing them with greater Power than usual in Times of Peace and Quiet, I will give up the Argument, and subscribe to all the impertinent Insinuations in this Treatise (or Tract, as he rather chuses to call it) from Beginning to End.

That he is little acquainted with his own Language, I shall only cite one Passage to prove, for the whole of his Performance is, in Fact, one continued Proof of that.

Page 18. " Deprived of Liberty,

" our Condition were worse than the

" Brutes; the Power of Reflection

" would but aggravate our Miseries,

" it is better to be hung than the Pro-

" perty of any Man."

If this is *English*, and allowed to be so, I am sincerely forry our great Men are so partial as to encourage a School, in which I was taught to form the little Judgment I have in our own, or the Latin

Latin Language, for I am very fure the Discipline of *Eton* College would have corrected either your Knowledge or mine, had either of us have dared to lay before Dr. *G--rge* a Translation of which this Sentence had been a Part;

" It is better to be hung than the

', Property of any Man."

For the *Elegance* of his Expressions, you will be pleased to observe an Extract or two more.

Page 6. "Whatever Dignity may "cloath these CATALINES" (by Catalines he means the Preventers of Poaching.)-These Hundred-a-Year Chaps, &c.

Page 7. " A Man cannot eat his

" Cake, and have it."

Page 8. "A cursed Crew of most inhuman Tyrants."

(These are only Sovereign Princes

in Germany.)

Page 11. "Give the Devil his Due."

Page 12. "The present Age is

" more profligate than all that are

" past, at least since the Destruction

" of Gomorrab." Bad enough to be

" fure

fure we are, but, as there is a Righteous Farmer or two amongst us still lest, peradventure the Lord will save the Land.

Page 14. "A pernicious, wicked, "diabolical Motion," that is, a Motion for the Preservation of the Game; one would have thought it had been a Motion to establish an Inquisition in England, and set the Pope upon the Throne of these Kingdoms.

Page 21. "Where is the Inde-" cency in comparing a great R---e " to a little one." Great Delicacy in this! especially when we consider who are the Kind of People, &c. he would be understood to speak of. Nothing exceeds his Delicacy indeed but his Courage. " Fear I am a Stranger " to----I am wholly unconcerned, " who takes Offence hereat; whoever " the Cap fits, is welcome to wear it-" For my part, I am apt to believe it fits Nobody, unless he took Measure at Home. And so much for the Preface of our Author, and his Affertions I come there.

I come now to look a little into the Book itself, and shall first consider the Defign, which appears to me, and, I think, to every impartial Reader must appear, to be wrote with no other View than to make a Noise, and create a Disturbance. With Regard to the Subject-Matter of the Complaint, namely, " That a Bill is intended to be brought " into P-----t to double the Qua-" lification of Sportsmen," by the Author's own Account it is no more than a Report, and, by his own Account too, (Postscript, p. 27.) a Report that has been dropped some Time. Why should he then be the first to revive it? But, allowing the Report still continued, I fee no Reason to take Occasion from thence to spread Alarms throughout a Kingdom (tho' the Author's more immediate Intention is manifeftly to alarm our County, or otherwife why should he call himself a Norfolk Farmer in particular?) as if the LIBERTY of the Subject was in DAN-GER, or why is a Differtation on a Compromise

promise introduced, for I do not know it is a Term in sporting? You, Sir, who are a Sportsman, can best tell if in the Chace you use it, or when your Hounds are at a Loss, the Huntsman calls it a Compromise between the Dogs and the Fox; if so, perhaps, the Author is in the right; if not, he might as well have introduced a Rope-dancing at Sadler's-Wells, and Mr. Maddox, as a Bill for the Preservation of Game, and a Compromise at an Election. The Confusion and Incoherence that every where appears throughout this laboured Work, and his thrusting in Circumstances altogether foreign to his Subject, has frequently made me think of a celebrated Speaker in one of the last Parliaments, who, whether the Debate ran upon changing a Road, and establishing a Turnpike, or any other more distant Occurrence, was fure never to close his Speech without bringing in CARTHAGENA and the West-Indies, Admiral Vernon, and his Six Ships only, fo that I never faw his Coach without wishing wishing the Motto off, and, in its Place, his favourite Allusion,

Εξ οίσιν θον νηύσι.

Ном.

I shall not take upon me to determine how far the Noblemen and Gentlemen's Club is to be cenfured or applauded; but this I will venture to fay, that no very bad Consequences have already accrued to the Freedom, or Property of the Subject, and if a few of the Author's Friends in London have not had so many Hares at their Tables a Winter or two past as formerly, the worst Inconvenience that has attended him, and the rest of his Acquaintance in Norfolk, on this Account, is, I believe, their being disappointed of a little London Lamb at Christmas; to be fure that is fomething cruel, because the Farmer kills a Hare upon his Landlord's Estate for Nothing, and his Friend in London fends him in Return a Quarter of Lamb that costs him Half C 2 a Guinea;

a Guinea; and this is one Instance too how the poor People in Town are injured by such a Subscription to put the Laws, relating to Game, in Execution.

But I shall not dwell upon this Article any longer, as every unprejudiced Reader will foon fee, that what is faid on the Subject of Game, is only as a Cloak to cover fomething else that may make a Stir, and kindle a Flame throughout a County, which is now at Peace, and almost unanimous in returning their two old Members to Parliament, whose Conduct has been univerfally approved of, who have shewn themselves entirely independent, and pursued no other Ends, and had no other Ambition, but to promote the PUBLCK WELFARE, and the TRUE IN-TEREST of the NATION, fo that all Infinuations fo prodigally dispersed throughout this Pamphlet, as if the Liberties of the Kingdom were going to be given up, are not only false in themselves, but, as far as they relate to the Members Members of N--f-lk, altogether imper-

I am not furprised, however, that a Pamphlet of this Kind was wrote, and sent out of this County, for I am senfible there are People, who would be glad to lay Hold of any the most inconsiderable Circumstance to raise a Disturbance, and create an Opposition at the ensuing Election. I remember myfelf, before the last October Meeting, which was, undoubtedly, as GREAT a one as ever was known on fuch an Occasion, and I need not mention that Men of the LARGEST Property were affembled at it, I remember being in Company where a "Council learned in " the Law" inveighed most bitterly at the Advertisement, which gave Notice of fuch a publick Meeting, and demanded, who had Authority to call the County together, and why it was to meet at a Time when the P----t was sitting, when Men were afraid to speak their Minds for Fear of being fent for up to the Bar of the House to answer a Breach

Breach of Privilege. As far as a Fear of the Latter prevented us the Pleafure of an eloquent Oration from that same learned Gentleman, I do think it was a Pity that the County met fo foon, and it might be wrong; but that ALL other Counties have followed the Example, and met upon a common Advertisement, without any Names figned to call them together, is evident to all the World. This was made a great Offence in you and Mr. Wodehouse, and these Promoters of the public Peace, and Defenders of the Liberty of the Subject exclaimed greatly against you, with what Success the Event has shewn them, and that attended too with no little Mortification.

But as neither of your Names were to it, you were not chargeable on that Account; it is the RIGHT of every Freeholder, of every Individual in the County, to call a Meeting if he thinks proper; the CITY of LONDON, the GREAT METROPOLIS of the KINGDOM, was called to a COMMON HALL by an

ANONYMOUS Advertisement, and a Day appointed for a PREVIOUS Meeting of the LIVERY at GUILD-HALL, without the SANCTION of any ONE Officer or Magistrate whatever. If the Livery of London had not thought it a proper Call, and approved it in general, they would not have met there. The Meeting shews whether the Advertiser acted with Judgment or not, for Authority is out of the Question. Suppose a Man with more Money than Brains (and some such People have lived in Norfolk, tho' not of late Years) should be at the Expence of a publick Advertisement, and call the County together to the SHIRE-House to EAT an Apple-Dumplin; why, the County may chuse to meet or not, and, as the County is faid to be fond of Dumplins, most probably would meet. In fuch a Case we will suppose this learned Gentleman very near as angry as he was before, though not with so much Reason, because, at this Meeting, he might get a Dinner, whereas, I am afraid, the other Meeting spoiled his Dinner, I will suppose him demanding aloud, by what Authority the County was summoned thus to meet, and which of the Gentlemen present did summon it, and his Reason for so doing? Why might not a rich silly Fellow reply, "'Twas I did it, my Au-" thority was Half a Crown, and my "Reason, because I had a Mind to see " an Apple-Dumplin eat in good Com-" pany."

Solventur risu tabulæ, tu missus abibis. Hor.

I have dwelt the longer upon this, because our bonest Farmer insinuates, (which is rather too soft an Expression) that the last October Meeting in Norfolk was a Compromise; whereas nothing is more notoriously false; the County was called together to think on proper Persons to represent them in Parliament, and they were unanimous at that general Meeting in naming their old. Members; no new Candidates were so much

much as proposed; and the Meeting (as has been observed) was one of the LAR-GEST ever known on fuch an Occafion, and not "A Handful of Men

" (to use the Expressions of our Au-

" thor, Page 15.) that in a Case of

" the greatest Importance, in the

" groffest Manner without Hesitation,

" or Fear of Consequences, forge the

" Names of a whole County."

If the Gentlemen that met that Day, and who came to forge the Names of a whole County, were but a Handful, our Author must own they were a Handful of the prettiest Fellows he ever faw; few as they were, I question much but they would have filled the largest Barn he has: But we shall see what Crowds will attend our ANTI-Com-PROMISING Farmer on the Day of ELEC-TION, when they are to be told, by some Cataline of the Game, some Leader of the Mighty (p. 16.) some Betrayer of the Liberties of the Commonwealth, fome Forger of Names, that there is Nothing for them to do, and they may go as they came about their Business; or, to use the Author's more elegant Harangue, to which few Men amongst your Friends, it must be confess'd, are equal,

GENTLEMEN,

"We gratefully remember your " kind Intentions, but, for this Time, " we have no Occasion for your Ser-" vices."

The Author in this Speech, puts me in Mind of a merry Gentleman I once at the Play-House the first Night the Suspicious Husband was acted. The Critics, as usual, were affembled in the Pit, many of whom, like MILTON's Devil, " grinn'd horribly a ghaftly Smile," in Hopes of a Scene of Damnation. Many others, more inoffensive, of which Party I was one, joined in making a Noise to sweat the Author a little, who, as we knew him to be a Man of Learning, we were fenfible would suffer more

on the Occasion than a Blockhead, and were not at all apprehensive of preventing the Success of a Play, which we were very fure, from Dr. HOADLEY's known Abilities, would command Attention whenever the Curtain was drawn up. In the Midst of Cat-calls, Hisses, and Noises of all Kinds, up starts a very pretty Figure of a Man, mounts a Bench, and stands in alt to speak; the House was bush'd in a Moment, a profound Silence enfued; in this Attitude he continued about Half a Minute without opening his Mouth, which an honest Trunk-maker in the Upper Gallery taking Notice of, cried out, in a Boatswain's Voice, AMAZING ELO-QUENCE! An universal Laugh ensued, and the Gentleman on the Bench was every where confidered as a Man of true Humour, who could thus call off the Attention of the Audience from Riots and Disturbances, relieve the Author, and put every body in good Temper, without a Word saying. I don't much love Compliments, nor would wil-D 2 lingly lingly be guilty of Flattery, but I am a little inclined to believe this merry Gentleman on the Bench that Night was the honest Norfolk Farmer; for the Style of both, (if I may use that Expression with Propriety, when applying it to a Man who said Nothing,) seems to be pretty much the same, and if the Farmer has the Advantage of him in having made Use of Words, we may still venture to say he has made as little of his Words aspossible.

But that may be owing, perhaps, to his speaking in Prose, for the Sentiment is undoubtedly noble and sublime; for once, we'll see how it will look in Verse. Let us suppose the Chairman at a Michaelmas Sessions of the Peace addressing the County in the Farmer's beautiful Manner, and adopting his Thoughts; Prose will not do, 'tis plain.

GENTLEMEN,

"We gratefully remember your kind

[&]quot;Intentions, but, for this Time, we have

" have no Occasion for your Ser-

This is flat sure enough, the Sentiment creeps, but Poetry shall lend it Wings to fly, as thus,

GENTLEMEN,

"Your kind Intentions we remember,

" And so-good bye till next September.

There's Fire and Spirit in this, and it shews the great Meaning of the Author, which cannot be fufficiently admired.

'Tis this alarming Idea of a Compromise, and not the Dread of a new Bill about the Game, that disturbs our ingenious Countryman; and that his Fears are well founded, and as well timed, will appear to every one at first View, who considers that the Interests in Norfolk are now united, and the Nomination of our Representatives already over; that no different Candidates applied, no new Interest was set on Foot, and if I have

have any Idea of a Compromise, it is this; that, where contending Interests, and contending Candidates barrass and distract a County, take off the industrious from their Labour, the Farmer from his Plough, the Shepherd from his Flock, where venerable Justices drink Ale, and maudling Landladies present the Bowl of Frenzy to passing Peers and Privy-Counsellors, at such a Time, to heal the Breaches of the publick Quiet, bid Riot and Disorder cease, and to restore Peace and Industry to the Community, if one Candidate from each Party is proposed, and such a Nomination universally affented to, I call that a COMPROMISE, and Nothing else but that; for the Word itself implies a Reconciliation of Parties at Variance with each other; that this is not the Case of Norfolk is evident beyond Contradiction, and, to fay more, would be an Affront to common Understanding.

How the Idea has wholly filled, if not wholly turned, the Head of our Author,

Author, I leave to any impartial Perfon to determine.

"Let us then remember what be-

" longs to Freeborn Englishmen, and

" never acknowledge any one imposed on us by that infamous Practice of

" compromising: Should such Men

" offer themselves as are most fit for

" us, let us chuse them in a regular

" Manner. Some Forms are facred,

" no Government can subsist without

" them; and whether a Compromise

" is, or is not threatned, it will ever be

" the fafest Way to meet at the Time

" and Place appointed, in Readiness to

" chuse, and to refuse.

" On doing this, or fomething like

" it, hangs all our Hopes of leaving to

" our Children the most valuable Bless-

" ing our Ancestors have transmitted

" to us, and than not do it, it would

" scarce be more criminal to send them

" to our foreign Plantations at once,

" for this might answer a reasonable

" End; it would not only ease us of

" the Burthen of maintaining them,

" but,

" but, if the Markets proved tolerably

" good, many of us might raise con-

" fiderable Sums by the Sale of our

" Families: Moreover, it would, at

" the same Time, rid many a Man of

" a still heavier Clog, most Women

" being so foolishly fond of their Chil-

" dren, that few would consent to stay

" behind them. This, you see, might

" tnrn to some Account."

The last Sentence is a Compliment to the Ladies, which they are much obliged to him for; but, perhaps, the bonest Farmer has a litigious Wife, and it is not improbable she might put him out of Temper at the Time he had a Mind to turn Author, and, if so, his Spleen against Compromises is rationally accounted for.

To be more serious, Sir; since our Author has said so much upon the Subject of Liberty, and would inser that it is in Danger, because there are a Set of Gentlemen, who will not suffer Shepherds to snare Hares, nor Coachmen to carry 'em to London, nor every Villager

lager to shoot Partridges who can level a Gun, I shall only observe, that there never was a Time in which the Subjects of England enjoy'd greater Freedom, in every Sense of the Word, than they do at this Day; no Infringement upon their RIGHTS and PRIVI-LEGES have ever been attempted by the Crown; no Acts of Oppression been authorised by Sanction of either House of Parliament. The King, long may he LIVE and REIGN over a People that love him, and whom he loves, in all his ROYAL Defigns, and gracious Intentions, he has ever had the WELFARE of the NATION at his Heart:

"Happy indeed we are, thrice happy, in a Prince, ambitious of no

" Extent of Power, but in the Hearts

" of his People, whose Reign, unful-

" lied by Attempts against the Free-

"dom of ENGLAND, will shine for

" ever beautifully bright in the immor-

E " tal

tal Annals of our Island, a FRIEND to LIBERTY, a PATRIOT KING." *

The House of Lords and Commons have been the GUARDIANS of the PUB-LICK HONOUR, and, with his facred Majesty, supported the Dignity and Power of the British Nation against superior Armies in the Field abroad, and secured the Liberty of the Subject from more dangerous defigning Enemies at Home; Still flourishes the INDEPENDANT PA-TRIOT, unterrified, unthreatned; he has no Tower to dread, no Ax to fear; there are no Ministers of Vengeance to tear him from his Wife and Children; no Spies of Power to lie in wait against the Innocent; no servile perjured Villains to bring our Nobles to the Scaffold, and spill the choicest Blood of all the Land, to extend the Prerogative of an ambitious Sovereign.

Happy! beyond Expression happy! and long are we likely to continue so.

We

^{*} Sir Andrew Freeport's FIRST ADDRESS to the Livery of London on the ensuing Election.

We have the pleasing Prospect of a numerous Offspring from the fame ROYAL LOINS, who promise PEACE and SECURITY for Ages to this Island. We have a Prince, an Heir-apparent to these Crowns, of whom Mankind already forms the greatest Expectations, and who will hereafter be a Bleffing to these Kingdoms; influenced by the GREAT EXAMPLE before his Eyes, and under the Tuition of a Princes, whose Life of Virtue has endeared her to the whole Body of Nobles and Commons of ENGLAND, and to whose Wisdom they have entrusted, with one Voice, the most precious Charge the Nation can bestow, The Heir and Regency of the Realm, in Case of a Minority:

Thus influenced, his Royal Highness, whenever he succeeds to the supreme Power of the Land, will have no
other Object but to bless the Land; to
spread Terror abroad, and to give Delight at Home; to confirm his Subjects
in the Possession of their Rights and
Properties, and to protect them from
foreign Insults, and from French Invasions:

Neque

Neque imbellem feroces
Progenerant Aquilæ Columbam,
Doctrina sed vim promovet insitam,
Rectique Cultus Pectora roborant.

Hor. L. 4. O. 4. In his Reign, " Concord will ap-" pear, brooding Peace and Prosperity " on the Happy Land; Joy fitting in " every Face, Content in every Heart; " a People unoppressed, undisturbed, " unalarmed; busy to improve their " private Property and the publick "Stock; Fleets covering the Ocean, " bringing Home Wealth by the Re-" turns of Industry; carrying Assistance, " or Terror abroad by the Direction " of Wisdom; and afferting, trium-" phantly, the Right, and the Honour of Great Britain, as far as Water's " roll, and as Winds can waft them." *

I am, SIR,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

April 22, 1754. Richard Gardiner.

* Idea of a PATRIOT KING.



